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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 01020 01 OF 02 111828Z
ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 OIC-02 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07
EUR-12 NEA-10 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00
PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
USIE-00 /127 W
----------111832Z 011485 /41
O R 111800Z FEB 77
FM USDEL MTN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2240
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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ACTION STR, PASS GREENWALD, MATTHEISEN, LANDE

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, GATT
SUBJECT: 7-PLUS-7 MEETING ON FRAMEWORK IMPROVEMENT GROUP

1. SUMMARY. TODAY'S 7-PLUS-7 MEETING TO DISCUSS FEBRUARY 21 FRAMEWORK GROUP MEETING MARKED BY ABSENCE OF ANY DISCUSSION SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. CONSENSUS REACHED THAT MEETING WOULD BE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ALL FIVE WORK ITEMS BUT THAT IT WAS NOT REPEAT NOT EXPECTED TO RESULT IN MORE SPECIFIC WORK PROGRAM. CANADIAN DEL MADE STRONG PITCH THAT IT NEEDED MORE CONVINCING ARGUMENTS, BASED ON PRECEDENT, IF IT WAS TO EXPLAIN TO ITS AUTHORITIES
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PAGE 02 MTN GE 01020 01 OF 02 111828Z

WHY IT AND OTHER DELS HAD TO TOLERATE DISCUSSION OF SUBJECTS THEY DISAGREED WITH. CONSENSUS EMERGED THAT GROUP COULD FINALLY TAKE NAME OF "FRAMEWORK GROUP". MACIEL CONFIRMED PRIVATELY HE IS RETURNING TO BRASILIA THIS WEEKEND TO SHEPHERD THROUGH INTERAGENCY APPROVAL OF BRAZILIAN CONCEPT PAPERS, WHICH MAY BE INDICATION OF UNEXPECTED BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

END SUMMARY.

2. DELEGATIONS AT TODAY'S 7-PLUS-7 ALL INDICATED FINAL POSITIONS NOT YET CLEARED/DEVELOPED FOR FIRST SUB-STANTIVE MEETING OF "GROUP ON PARAGRAPH NINE" BEGINNING FEBRUARY 21. JAPAN (UKAWA) HOPED TO PRESENT VIEWS ON ALL FIVE TOPICS, ALTHOUGH POSITIONS NOT YET FIRM. EC (LUYTEN) ANTICIPATED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS CONCERNING "DIFFERENT PROBLEMS ENUMERATED BY THE TNC", AND EXPECTED TO HEAR DELEGATION VIEWS ON ALL TOPICS ON GROUP AGENDA. BRAZIL (MACIEL) SAID IT MIGHT NOT DEAL WITH ALL PROBLEMS ON AGENDA, BUT WOULD ATTEMPT TO DO SO. NORDICS (SELMER) EXPRESSED DEFINITE INTEREST IN ALL TOPICS ON GROUP AGENDA AND EXPECTED TO MAKE PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON SOME OF THEM. U.S. MTN DEL (HARTZELL) NOTED WE IN PROCESS OF CONSULTING WITH NUMBER OF OTHER DELEGATIONS, AND WOULD NEED TIME TO DIGEST VARIOUS VIEWS PRESENTED; THEREFORE, U.S. NOT IN POSITION NOW TO CHARACTERIZE POSITIONS EVENTUALLY TO BE TAKEN.

3. CANADA (GREY) ANNOUNCED "I AM NOT GOING TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY DISCUSSION ON SUPPLY," AND CLAIMED INSTRUCTIONS FROM OTTAWA TO THIS EFFECT CONSTITUTED "THE SAME BINDING ON ME AS THE TRADE ACT WOULD HAVE FOR A DELEGATION FROM THE U.S." GREY WENT ON TO SAY THAT GROUP SHOULD LEAVE ASIDE "DISAGREED" TOPICS (DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, BOP, EXPORT RESTRICTIONS) AND PROCEED ON "AGREED" ITEMS. JAPAN RESPONDED BY SAYING
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THAT, ALTHOUGH IT HAD MISGIVINGS AND RESERVATIONS ON SOME POINTS ON GROUP AGENDA, IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE TOPICS IF ALL REMAINED ON AGENDA; JAPAN WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO DO SO IF ONLY ONE OR TWO TOPICS WERE BEING CONSIDERED. IN REJOINDER TO CANADIAN COMPLAINT, U.S. DEL RECALLED HISTORY OF NOVEMBER 5 TNC AND DECEMBER 14 FRAMEWORK GROUP MEETINGS AS PERMITTING DELS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS ALL TOPICS TO DO SO. U.S. CONSULTATIONS INDICATED MANY DELS WANTED TO COVER ALL TOPICS; WHILE WE DID NOT WANT ANY DELEGATION FORCED INTO DISCUSSION ON PARTICULAR TOPICS, OPPORTUNITY SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION. GATT DG LONG MADE SIMILAR COMMENT, NOTING IF TOPICS WERE REMOVED FROM AGENDA ON BASIS OF PARTICULAR DELEGATION OBJECTIONS, NOTHING AT ALL WOULD REMAIN ON AGENDA. HE REITERATED FIVE POINTS ON GROUP AGENDA WERE INCLUDED ON BASIS OF CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS, EVEN THOUGH NO UNANIMITY EXISTED ON ANY ONE OF THEM.

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PAGE 01 MTN GE 01020 02 OF 02 111834Z
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TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 USIE-00 /127 W
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MTN GENEVA 1020

ACTION STR, PASS GREENWALD, MATTHEISEN, LANDE

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4. BRAZIL (MACIEL) SOUGHT TO DISPOSE OF QUESTION OF
NAME FOR GROUP, WHICH IN DECEMBER ORGANIZATIONAL
MEETING HAD ADOPTED PROVISIONAL TITLE "GROUP ON
PARAGRAPH NINE". FOLLOWING CANADIAN COMPLAINT THAT
"FRAMEWORK IMPROVEMENT" WOULD CONNOTE SHORTCOMINGS
IN EXISTING FRAMEWORK -- SOMETHING CANADA DOES NOT
RECOGNIZE -- CONSENSUS DEVELOPED AROUND "FRAMEWORK GROUP"
AS TITLE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL DELS. (THIS FOLLOWED
CHARACTERISTIC COMMENT FROM HAMZA OF EGYPT THAT CHANGE
OF NAME NEEDED BECAUSE, IN ARABIC TRANSLATION, "GROUP
ON PARAGRAPH NINE" WAS ROUGHLY SIMILAR TO "THE HIGHEST
LEVEL OF POVERTY*)
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PAGE 02 MTN GE 01020 02 OF 02 111834Z

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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5. AFTER DELIVERING COMPLAINT ON INCLUSION OF EXPORT
RESTRICTIONS TOPIC, GREY OF CANADA SAID HE NEEDED
CONVINCING ARGUMENTATIOON, BASED ON GATT PRECEDENT, THAT WOULD
EXPLAIN, TO HIS DOMESTIC AUTHORITIES
CANDA'S TOLERANCE OF DISCUSSIONS ON EXPORT RESTRICTIONS.
ALTHOUGH HARSHLY PUT, HE EXPLAINED HIS STATEMENT AS
"AN APPEAL FOR HELP." IN CORRIDOR DISCUSSION WITH GREY
FOLLOWING MEETING HE INDICATED THAT PERHAPS DISAGREED STATUS
OF AGRICULTURE IN WORK PROGRAM OF GROUP TARIFFS AND
SUBSIDY/CVD SUBGROUP MIGHT BE A PRECEDENT
HE COULD USE.

6. MEETING CLOSED WITH REQUEST FROM LONG THAT
DELEGATIONS INFORM HIM OF ANY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS
IN CAPITALS; IF HE HEARS OF SUCH HE PLANS CONVENE
ANOTHER 7-PLUS-7 MORNING OF FEBRUARY 21, PRIOR TO FIRST
FORMAL SESSION OF GROUP THAT AFTERNOON.

7. FOR EMBASSY BRASILIA: PRIVATELY WE LEARNED
MACIEL RETURNING TO BRASILIA TO REMAIN MOST OF
NEXT WEEK. THIS APPARENTLY DUE TO UNEXPECTED
COMPLICATION ON INTERAGENCY CLEARANCE OF HIS CONCEPT
PAPERS. SUGGEST EMBASSY BRASILIA BE ALERT TO ANY LOCAL
INDICATION OF DEVELOPMENTS, BUT WE ADVISE AGAINST
DIRECT INQUIRIES.

8. FULL REPORT OF U.S. MTN DEL BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS
ON FRAMEWORK GROUP PER STATE 26825 FOLLOWS SEPTEL.
CULBERT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MTNGE01020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770049-1138
Format: TEL
From: MTN GENEVA
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3343302
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 7-PLUS-7 MEETING ON FRAMEWORK IMPROVEMENT GROUP
TAGS: ETRD, SZ, GATT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/55eef5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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